

Strabane Tennis Club: Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct sets out what the Club regards as good practice for all members to follow and is available so that every member is clear as to what is expected of them in order to create the right playing environment in which everyone can enjoy their tennis.

Should a breach of the Code of Conduct occur this should be raised to any committee member who must inform the chairperson or in writing directly to the committee. Any breach of this code will be investigated by a sub-committee of the Club Committee and appropriate action taken. Any member accused of breaching the code of conduct will have the right of appeal.

Rules of Tennis

An understanding of the rules of tennis is essential. The rules of tennis are published by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and can be found on the Tennis Ireland Website:

https://www.tennisireland.ie/userfiles/File/Database/10_38417_original.pdf

Code of Conduct

All members are expected to treat all other members and all other players respectfully. The Club will not accept any behaviour which may cause any physical or mental harm to any other member or player.

- Treat all participants as you like to be treated.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Welcome new members and players to the Club irrespective of their experience of the game and their level of play.
- Be fair, considerate and honest in all dealings with others.
- Maintain a safe environment for the conduct of all club related activities.

- Control your temper. Do not use abusive language/gestures. Do not deliberately distract or provoke an opponent. Refrain from ball/racquet abuse;
- Understand that there may be repercussions for the club by your actions;
- Be a positive role model.

Behaviour around the club

- Players should wear clothing, of any colour, suitable for physical activity;
- Appropriate footwear for tennis is required both to promote safety and also to prevent damage to the courts;
- Always leave the courts tidy - collect up the tennis balls when you have finished.
- Bins have been provided for rubbish;
- If you are last to leave the courts you should lock the gate.

Etiquette both within the Club and when Representing the Club at a Tournament or other Event

Tennis etiquette covers different areas from those addressed within the rules of the game. Etiquette covers a range of actions and behaviours which are considered acceptable on and around the tennis court.

- Show respect and courtesy to your partner, your opponents and others on or around the courts.
- Recognise and acknowledge good play whether it is your own team or the opposition.
- During play and particularly between games keep the amount and volume of conversation to a minimum so as to avoid distracting players on other courts.

Do not walk across another court during a game

- Wait for the conclusion of the point or if the match is a competitive one wait until the end of game, or until you are invited to cross, and do so as quickly as possible.
- If your ball rolls onto an adjacent court, wait for a break in the play in that court before politely requesting its return rather than retrieving it yourself;
- If a ball from an adjacent court strays onto yours do not hit it back immediately but do so when the players on that court are ready and then hit it to the server's end of that court.

Line calls

- Only call the lines on your side of the net;
- Call clearly on the basis of what you honestly believe to be correct.
- If you are not certain, or did not see the ball clearly, the ball was good and the benefit of the doubt goes in favour of the opponent.
- If occasionally you have serious doubt over a line call, ask your opponents politely if they are certain as to the accuracy of their call, and if they are, move on and play the next point.

Keeping score

- The server should announce the score audibly before each point.
- If the server forgets or cannot be heard, the receiver should ask the server to make a more audible announcement of the score.

Mobile phones

- Mobile phones taken onto court should be switched off, or put on silent or vibrate mode, so as to avoid creating a distraction. Mobile phone calls should not be made or received on court;

Coaching Sessions

- Abide by the rules set down by the club's coach.
- Respect club officials and accept their decisions.

- Talk to the coaching staff if you have concerns.

Parents and Guardians

- Remember that children should participate in sport for their enjoyment.
- Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
- Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Always encourage children to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Never ridicule or shout at a child or child's opponent for making a mistake or losing.
- Remember that children learn best by example.
- Appreciate good performances and skilful play by all participants.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect club official's decisions and requests and ensure your children do likewise;
- Show appreciation for volunteers, coaches and other officials. Without them, your children could not participate.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Do not interfere with the progress and/or conduct of a game.

Use of Club Logo and Name

To protect the identity, values and ethos of the club, members are not permitted to use the club logo or club name on any clothing, printed material, websites or social media without the expressed written permission of the club committee.

Failure to adhere to this may result in disciplinary action being taken against a member.